

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 20-24 are pending in the present application. New claims 25 and 26 are added herein. Accordingly, claims 20-26 are presented for examination on the merits.

Claim 20 is amended herein to define the claimed method as a method for introducing iodide into a human thyroid carcinoma cell, and to include the step of administering iodide to the cell. Support for this amendment is found at page 9, lines 27-30 and throughout the Examples. Claim 24 has also been amended to include a step of administering iodide to the thyroid carcinoma cell.

New claims 25 and 26 are directed to an embodiment of the invention wherein the iodide is radiolabeled iodide. Support for these claims is found at page 13 ("Iodide Uptake Assay").

No new matter is added by these amendments to the claims.

I. Rejection of Claims 20-22 Under 35 USC § 102(b) Over Schreck et al.

Claims 20-22 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Schreck et al. the examiner states that the cited reference discloses a method of treating FTC-133 cells with sodium butyrate and asserts that expression of NIS is an inherent result of such treatment.

This rejection is respectfully traversed as follows.

The present invention of claims 20-22 is directed to a method of introducing iodide into human thyroid carcinoma cells, which includes treating the cells with 5-azacytidine, sodium butyrate, dimethylsulfoxide, or adenosyl-1,8-diamino-3-thio-octane and administering iodide to the cells. Schreck et al. do not teach or suggest administering iodide to butyrate treated cells. Thus, this reference does not anticipate the claimed invention, nor does it render obvious the claimed method for introducing iodide to thyroid carcinoma cells.

Accordingly, the rejection of claims 20-22 under 35 USC § 102(b) is respectfully traversed.

II. Rejection of Claim 24 Under 35 USC § 102(b) Over Endean et al.

Claim 24 is rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated over Endean et al. The examiner states that the cited reference discloses contacting NPA-87 human carcinoma cells with DFMO, and asserts that such treatment will inherently restore iodide treatment to the cells.

This rejection is respectfully traversed as follows.

Claim 24 has been amended to include a step of administering iodide to difluoromethylornithine or S-adenosyl-1,8-diamino-3-thio-octane treated cells. EFMO-treated cells and therefore, the cited reference does not anticipate the claimed invention. Moreover, Endean et al. does not disclose or suggest that iodide transport is restored by treatment with any agent, and does not suggest the claimed invention.

Accordingly, the rejection of claim 24 under 35 USC § 102(b) over Endean et al. is respectfully traversed.

It is respectfully submitted that the present application, as amended above, is in condition for allowance, an early notification thereof being earnestly solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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